

determining, using said sequence, whether an incident is associated with one or more frames in said sequence;

transmitting said sequence over a network to an image server, said image server not local to one or more locations performing said capturing and not local to one or more locations of clients for viewing;

storing said sequence at said image server; and

providing said sequence to one or more clients for viewing by a user.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein said determining comprises computing a percentage value for a differential frame indicating a calculated percentage change between said differential frame and a preceding frame.

16. A method for viewing image data from one or more cameras comprising:

capturing a plurality of still frames as arrays of digital data;

designating a frame in said plurality as a full frame;

for a frame subsequent to said full frame, computing a differential frame wherein a pixel in said differential frame that is within a threshold of a geometrically corresponding pixel in a preceding frame is set to transparent;

for a frame subsequent to said full frame, computing a percentage difference indicating a degree of change of pixels from a preceding frame;

transmitting a full frame, one or more differential frames, and one or more computed percentages to a camera coordinator;

determining that an incident has occurred using rules-based logic to analyze data received from said frame grabber;

storing frame data, image data, and incident data;

transmitting frame data to an image server; and

presenting frame data by said image server to one or more clients for viewing by one or more users.

21. (Added) A method for viewing image data from one or more cameras comprising:

capturing image data at a plurality of cameras, said plurality of cameras each associated with at least one digital information processing device able to store digital data representing images;

generating, from said image data, a sequence of digital image data sets representing visually perceptible images comprising data that can be transmitted over a digital communications channel;

transmitting said sequence over a first communication network connection to an image server, said image server not local to at least one of said cameras and not local to one or more client viewing locations wherein a principal function of said image server is image delivery to client software for presentation to an observer and wherein said server's delivery of image data allows a client viewer to display a pseudo real time representation of an image seen by a camera;

storing said sequence at said image server;

from said image server, in response to a request from a plurality of remote clients, transmitting said image sequence data over a second network connection to one or more clients for viewing, such that said clients do not directly connect over said first network connection to said plurality of cameras; and

wherein said image server allows a plurality of users to view images simple static image coding.

22. (Added) The method according to claim 21 wherein said sequence stored at said image server is stored in a format designed for still image display on a client browser.

23. (Added) The method according to claim 22 wherein said format is the PNG format.

24. (Added) The method according to claim 22 wherein said format is the GIF format.

25. (Added) The method according to claim 21 wherein said clients comprise off-the-shelf internet browser software.

26. (Added) The method according to claim 21 wherein said image server includes a network interface with a high bandwidth capacity.

These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with the Examiner's

monitoring computer system via said communications network" (Col. 11: line 34-37.). This is also shown in Fig 1, and is the configuration discussed throughout the Vaios.

5 The present invention, by contrast, teaches that image capture systems are first connected to an image server system. This provides a number of advantages, as described in the application, for example allowing many users to view the same image from a single surveillance system without overwhelming the bandwidth capabilities of an individual surveillance system.


10 Thus, there is no basis for the examiner's assertion that Vaios teaches "transmitting the sequence to an image server (col. 3, lines 24-26);" The computer discussed in the cited passage of Vaios is clearly the local computer directly connected to a camera and as it corresponds to the "camera coordinator" of the present invention. Both the written description, figures, and claims of the present invention make clear that the invention includes an "image server" that receives and stores images from at least one remote camera and then provides those images to users. Vaios nowhere hints at or suggests this capability and in fact specifically teaches away in stating that cameras make separate and independent connections to end users.

15 Applicants have hereby presented sufficient grounds for overcoming each of the Examiner's rejection. The failure to cite any additional grounds is not to be taken as an admission of any position taken by the Examiner. In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

20 If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 337-7871.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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